

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 6-8, 10-14, 16-17, 23-24, 26-30, 32-34, 40-42, 44-48, 50-51, 57-58, 60-64, 66-68, 74-75, 77-80, 82-83, 87-94, 98-99, 101-103, 105, 109-110, 112-114, and 116 are pending. Claims 1-5, 9, 15, 18-22, 25, 31, 35-39, 43, 49, 52-56, 59, 65, 69-73, 76, 81, 84-86, 95-97, 100, 104, 106-108, 111, and 115 are cancelled without prejudice. No new matter is added.

Telephone Interview Summary

On December 9, 2008, Applicant's representative, Thomas Keating, conducted a telephone interview with Examiner Haresh N. Patel to discuss the outstanding rejections. Examiner Patel and Applicant's representative discussed the claims in light of the art-based rejections. Examiner Patel indicated that the claims could be distinguished over the art if claim 6 were amended to include the elements of dependent claim 9 and if similar amendments were made to the remaining independent claims. Applicant's representative gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's granting of and participation in the telephone interview.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6-17, 23-34, 40-51, 57-68, 74-83, 87-94, 98-105, and 109-116 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Beyda (2003/0233415), Wittke et al. (2004/0059705), Hall (2004/0205173), and Kageyama (2003/0120656). In accordance with Examiner Patel's recommendation, claims 6, 12, 23, 29, 40, 46, 57, 63, 74, 79, 87, 91, 98, 102, 109, and 113 have been amended to distinguish the cited art. Therefore, as none of the references discloses all of the elements of the invention as recited in the pending claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments presented herein, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned at the phone number below should any issues remain with respect to the application.

No fees are believed due in connection with this response. However if any fees are owed, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1965.

Respectfully submitted,

/thomas j. keating/

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